
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Bob Donovan
(414) 708-2096

New “Rhino” to Track Possible Criminal Activity

Special MPD Vehicle to be Rolled Out at News Conference Tomorrow

With help from **Alderman Bob Donovan**, the Milwaukee Police Department will be rolling out a bold and heavily armored new crime-fighting tool.

Dubbed the “Rhino” because of its armor, a former armored courier truck has been retrofitted with surveillance video cameras and other features so that it can be parked in strategic locations to monitor possible criminal and nuisance activities.

A news conference is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. tomorrow (Tuesday, August 10) at the Milwaukee Christian Center, S. 22nd and W. Greenfield Ave., to announce the vehicle’s deployment. Alderman Donovan will be joined by neighborhood residents, Block Watch captains from the near south side, and representatives of the funding sources that helped equip the vehicle. **Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm** and **Police Chief Edward Flynn** have also been invited to participate.

Alderman Donovan, who approached Garda armored services and convinced the firm to donate the used truck to the MPD, said the vehicle brings “a whole new dimension” to police surveillance in the city. “The truck can be parked outside suspected drug houses, gang houses and nuisance properties while officers and the Community Prosecution Unit watch remotely from another location – that will certainly throw criminals off their game and make them nervous,” he said. “For the officers, it’s a safer and more efficient way to conduct surveillance, and for residents they’ll know the Rhino is keeping tabs on the bad guys who are usually causing trouble.”

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MPD Rhino/ADD ONE

The vehicle has been painted with usual MPD black and white colors and is clearly identified as an MPD vehicle.

The alderman's **Operation Impact** accepted the truck and the cameras and other equipment that has been installed in it. But Alderman Donovan said the community owes big "thank yous" to the Betty Brinn Foundation, Miller Compressing, Inc. and Badger Mutual Insurance Co. for funding the project. He also credits Donald Wesolowski, the owner of Maaco on S. 13th and W. Howard, for donating the vehicle's paint job.

Lastly, Alderman Donovan said he would very much like to thank Garda for donating the vehicle, and intern Steve Smith, who worked closely with Garda on the project.

Other police departments have secured similar armored courier vehicles that have been retrofitted for public safety and surveillance work – including the Racine Police Department, Alderman Donovan said.